



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 3 2008

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Theodore A. Wyka
Complex Transformation
SPEIS Document Manager
Office of Transformation, NA-10.1
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Wyka:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Draft Complex Transformation Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (CEQ # 20080004).

National security policies require NNSA to maintain the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile and core competencies in nuclear weapons. This has been accomplished through a configuration of various facilities where nuclear weapons were designed, tested, and manufactured that is referred to as the nuclear weapons complex (the Complex). The Complex was designed and built during the Cold War and consists of several major facilities across the country that work together to keep the nation's nuclear stockpile safe and reliable without underground testing. Many of these facilities are old, too large, and very expensive to maintain. NNSA has taken several steps to consolidate the Complex into its current configuration. Since the completion of the 1996 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Stockpile Stewardship and Management and its associated Record of Decision, NNSA has implemented the national security policies through the Stockpile Stewardship Program. NNSA proposes to continue the transformation by further consolidating operations which could result in the relocation of activities among sites. As a result, it is supplementing the 1996 PEIS to evaluate alternatives for establishing a smaller, more efficient and responsive nuclear weapons complex.

The draft EIS evaluated alternatives that would restructure special nuclear materials manufacturing and research and development facilities; consolidate special nuclear materials throughout the Complex; consolidate, relocate, or eliminate duplicative facilities and programs and improve operating efficiencies; and identify one or more sites for conducting NNSA flight test operations. Specifically, it analyzed potential impacts associated with water resources, air quality and noise, geology and soils, biological resources, cultural and archaeological resources, environmental justice, socioeconomic, human health and safety, and land use. It also identified mitigation measures to be implemented to minimize or offset potential adverse impacts through regulatory consultations/permitting requirements and compliance agreements with various regulatory agencies.

Based on our review of the document and the above information, EPA does not object to the proposed action and have rated the draft EIS Lack of Objections (LO).

We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft EIS. The staff contact for the review is Marthea Rountree and she can be reached at (202) 564-7141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan E. Bromm". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan E. Bromm
Acting Director
Office of Federal Activities